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MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF

FOR 28 DECEMBER 1983.

FROM: DDI/[REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED]
1. SOUTH AFRICA-ANGOLA: SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS

//THE PACE OF FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA APPEARS TO BE QUICKENING.//(S NF)

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THE SOUTH AFRICANS SAID ON MONDAY THAT THEY HAD MOVED SOME 140 KILOMETERS INTO ANGOLA IN A PREEMPTIVE ATTACK ON A DISPERSED SWAPO FORCE THEY CLAIM TOTALS SOME 1,400 GUERRILLAS. PRETORIA SAYS THAT GUERRILLA UNITS ARE PROTECTED BY ANGOLAN AND CUBAN FORCES AND THAT SOME 200 SWAPO PERSONNEL HAD SOUGHT SHELTER AT THE GARRISON IN CAHAMA. [REDACTED]

THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE CHIEF HAS PUBLICLY ASSERTED THAT, WHILE SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT WANT TO ENGAGE ANGOLAN OR CUBAN TROOPS, IT WOULD DO SO IF THE ANGOLANS CONTINUE TO PROTECT SWAPO OR INTERFERE IN SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS AGAINST SWAPO. THE ANGOLANS REPORTEDLY DID INTERVENE LAST WEEK IN A CLASH NEAR CAIUNDO. [REDACTED]

LUANDA ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD CAPTURED THE TOWN OF KASSINGA AND HAD LAUNCHED COMBINED AIR AND GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST CAHAMA, CUVELAI, AND CAIUNDO. ANGOLA CLAIMS TO HAVE SHOT DOWN FOUR SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT. PRETORIA DENIES LOSING ANY AIRCRAFT, BUT IT CONFIRMS THAT SA-8 MISSILES WERE FIRED AT ITS PLANES DURING OPERATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] /THE AIR DEFENSE SITES AT CAHAMA ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ANGOLAN TARGET FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE. PRETORIA'S CHOICE OF TARGETS MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO PUNISH ANGOLA FOR SHELTERING SWAPO INSURGENTS WHILE REDUCING THE RISK OF DIRECT CLASHES WITH ANGOLAN AND CUBAN FORCES. / [REDACTED]

//SOUTH AFRICA'S USE OF ARTILLERY MORE THAN 100 KILOMETERS INSIDE ANGOLA. HOWEVER, IS A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM PAST PRACTICE. IT MAY PRESAGE A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA.// [REDACTED]

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